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- a means (800, 804, 805) of determining the semantics of the processing of the said data, and

2. Device according to Claim 1, characterised in that:

- the pilot configuration used by the determination means (800, 804, 805) includes the selection of the input/output means intended to implement the said processing.

- it has a means (800, 804, 805, 806, 810, 811) of dialoguing with the user adapted to transmit questions to the user and to receive information from him in response, and

4. Device according to Claim 3, characterised in that it has a memory (804) adapted to store information received in response from the user.

5. Device according to Claim 4, characterised in that the said memory (804) is adapted also to store, associated with each item of information received, an item of information representing the user who supplied it.

6. Device according to either one of Claims 4 or 5, characterised in that the said memory (804) is adapted also to store, associated with each item of information received, an item of information representing the document concerned.

7. Device according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, characterised in that it has a pilot updating means (800, 804, 805) adapted:

- on the one hand to detect that a pilot of the input/output means intended to implement the said processing is not available or is not up to date in a memory (804), and
- on the other hand, to read the said pilot in another memory.

8. Device according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, characterised in that:

- it has a means (800, 804, 805) of checking the availability of input/output means adapted to transmit an item of information representing unavailability for the processing of the said data, when the means (807) intended to process the said data is not available for this purpose; and
- the determination means (800, 804, 805) is adapted to take into account the unavailability information in order to determine the configuration of another input/output means (809) able to implement the said processing of the said data.

9. Device for determining the conditions of a processing liable to be carried out on data of a document, by at least one input/output means (907, 909) which uses a physical quantity, characterised in that it has:

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- a means of estimating the content of this document (900, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1508, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1517, 1518, 1519, 1520, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1526, 1527, 1528, 1529, 1530, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1540, 1541, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1545, 1546, 1547, 1548, 1549, 1550, 1551, 1552, 1553, 1554, 1555, 1556, 1557, 1558, 1559, 1560, 1561, 1562, 1563, 1564, 1565, 1566, 1567, 1568, 1569, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 1574, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, 1595, 1596, 1597, 1598, 1599,

10 10. Device according to Claim 9, characterised in that the quantity  
determination means is adapted to scrutinise data of the said document which  
are directly accessible to a user.

12. Device according to any one of Claims 9 to 11, characterised in  
20 that the quantity determination means is adapted to read at least one quantity  
in a file.

25 - the processing can be carried out by at least two input/output means (907, 909) and

30 14. Device according to any one of Claims 9 to 13, characterised in  
that the quantity determination means is adapted so that one of the said

quantities represents the number of pages in the document represented by the said document.

15. Device according to any one of Claims 9 to 14, characterised in that the quantity determination means is adapted so that one of the said quantities represents the number of digital information items in the said document.

16. Device according to any one of Claims 9 to 15, characterised in that the quantity determination means is adapted so that one of the said quantities represents a time taken to open the said document by software able to modify the content thereof.

17. Device according to any one of Claims 9 to 16, characterised in that the quantity determination means is adapted so that one of the said quantities represents a degree of compression able to be obtained on the said document using predetermined compression software.

18. Device according to any one of Claims 9 to 17, characterised in that quantity determination means is adapted so that one of the said quantities represents a period of time necessary for the compression of the said document, by predetermined compression software.

19. Device according to any one of Claims 9 to 18, characterised in that it includes a means of determining parts (900, 904, 905) of the said document, and in that:

- the determination means is adapted to determine at least two quantities relating to each of the said parts,
- the content estimation means is adapted to estimate the content of each of the said parts, taking into account each said quantity relating to the said part, and

- the configuration determination means is adapted to take into account the content of the said part in order to determine the configuration of the pilot of the input/output means intended to implement this processing on the said part.

20. Printer, characterised in that it has a device according to any one of Claims 1 to 19.

21. Facsimile machine, characterised in that it has a device according to any one of Claims 1 to 19.

22. Modulator-demodulator, characterised in that it has a device according to any one of Claims 1 to 19.

23. Display screen, characterised in that it has a device according to any one of Claims 1 to 19.

24. Photographic apparatus, characterised in that it has a device according to any one of Claims 1 to 19.

25. Camera having an image sensor, characterised in that it includes a device according to any one of Claims 1 to 19.

26. Method for determining conditions for processing liable to be carried out on data in a file (104), by at least one input/output means (111, 807, 809) which modulates a physical quantity, characterised in that it has:

- a step (105, 106) of determining the semantics of the processing of the said data, and

- a configuration determination step (107) during which, without modifying the said data (104), the semantics of the said processing of the said data is taken into account in order to determine the configuration of the pilot of the input/output means designed to implement this processing.

- the processing is able to be carried out by at least two input/output means (807, 809), and

includes a step of selection of the input/output means intended to implement the said processing.

characterised in that:

- it includes an operation (105) of dialoguing with the user during which questions are transmitted to the user and information is received from him in response, and

- the configuration determination operation (107) also includes taking into account the information received in response from the user in order to determine the pilot configuration.

29. Method according to Claim 28, characterised in that it includes a step (105, 207) of storing information received in response from the user.

30. Method according to Claim 29, characterised in that the said storage step (207) also includes associating, with each item of information received, and item of information representing the user who supplied it.

31. Method according to either one of Claims 29 or 30, characterised in that the said storage step (207) also includes associating, with each item of information received, an item of information representing the document concerned.

32. Method according to any one of Claims 26 to 31, characterised in that it includes a pilot updating step (101, 102, 602, 605) during which:

- on the one hand it is detected that a pilot of the input/output means intended to implement the said processing is not available or is not up to date in a memory, and
- on the other hand, the said pilot is read in another memory.

33. Method according to any one of Claims 26 to 32, characterised in that:

- it includes an operation of checking the availability of input/output means (807, 809) during which an item of information representing unavailability for the processing of the said data is transmitted, when the means (807) intended to process the said data is not available for this purpose; and
- during the determination operation (107), the unavailability information is taken into account in order to determine the configuration of another input/output means (809) able to implement the said processing of the said data.

34. Method of determining the conditions of a processing liable to be carried out on data of a document, by at least one input/output means (907, 909) which uses a physical quantity, characterised in that it includes:

- an operation of determining at least two quantities related to the said document (1003, 1004, 1006, 1007, 1010, 1011, 1020)
- an operation of estimating the content of this document, taking into account each said quantity (1005, 1008, 1009, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1020, 1022), and
- a configuration determination operation (1015, 1016, 1023, 1024) during which the content of the document is taken into account in order to determine the configuration of the pilot of the input/output means intended to implement this processing.

35. Method according to Claim 34, characterised in that the quantity determination operation includes an operation of scrutinising (1003, 1004, 1006, 1007, 1010, 1011, 1020) the data of the said document which are directly accessible to a user.

36. Method according to either one of Claims 34 or 35, characterised in that the quantity determination operation (1003, 1004, 1006, 1007, 1020) can be carried out without having to use a software application able to make it possible to modify the content of the said document.

37. Method according to any one of Claims 34 to 36, characterised in that the quantity determination operation includes an operation (1003, 1004, 1007) of reading at least one quantity in a file.

38. Method according to any one of Claims 34 to 37, characterised in that:

- the processing is able to be carried out by at least two input/output means (907, 909) and
- the pilot configuration determination operation includes an operation (1015, 1023) of selecting the input/output means intended to implement the said processing.

39. Method according to any one of Claims 34 to 38, characterised in that, during the quantity determination operation (1003), one of the said quantities represents the number of pages in the document represented by the said document.

40. Method according to any one of Claims 34 to 39, characterised in that, during the quantity determination operation (1004), one of the said quantities represents the number of digital information items in the said document.

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- an operation of estimating the content of the said part (1021, 1022), taking into account each quantity related to the said part, and

- a configuration determination operation (1023, 1024) during which the content of the said part is taken into account in order to determine the configuration of the pilot of the input/output means intended to implement this processing on the said part.

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47. Method according to Claim 46, characterised in that, during the part determination operation (1018), pages of the document are determined.

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